

Etzig, Trista

From: rob@boordy.com
Sent: Saturday, April 22, 2006 6:21 PM
To: Scblockgrants,
Subject: Specialty crop grant
Attachments: ATTACHMENT.TXT

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to urge you to include wine in the crops that will be eligible for specialty crop grants. My understanding is that as the legislation is currently worded, priority will be given to fresh produce, and that wine may be excluded because it is a fermented beverage.

As the owner of a small winery in Maryland, I believe very strongly that wine belongs among the specialty crops, and that it is consistent with the spirit of the legislation. Grapes are one of the most important economic crops in the United States, and wine is now made in all 50 states. It is important to recognize that the market for wine grapes is entirely dependent upon the market for wine, and that American wines must compete with wines from all over the world, increasingly from countries with far lower wage scales than ours. We must keep up a strong marketing and research effort to keep our industry viable.

I ask you to remove the sentence under § 1290.4: "Priority will be given to fresh specialty crop projects." from the Specialty Crops legislation.

Sincerely,

Rob Deford

Robert Deford
Boordy Vineyards
12820 Long Green Pike
Hydes, MD 21082
410-592-5015
rdeford@boordy.com

4/24/2006